

Felixstowe Sea Angling Society Rules (Revised 19/02/2017)

1) NAME OF THE SOCIETY

1. The Society shall be called the Felixstowe Sea Angling Society with Headquarters at Manor Terrace, Felixstowe.

2) OBJECT

2. The main purpose of the Society is to provide facilities for and to promote participation in the amateur sport of sea angling both from the beach and from boats and to provide competitions, training and special events for adult and junior members in Felixstowe and venues on the rivers and North Sea off East Anglia.

2B. The Society is intent that children and vulnerable adults will find sea angling a safe environment in which to have fun, learn and develop, by promoting the NFSA Child Protection Policy Guidelines Document.

2C. All surplus income or profits are to be reinvested in the club. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties.

2D. Upon dissolution of the Society any remaining assets shall be given or transferred to another registered CASC, a registered charity or the sport's governing body for use by them in related community sports.

3) MEMBERSHIP

3. Membership of the Society shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.

3A. The Society may have different classes of membership and subscription on a non-discriminatory and fair basis. The club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating. The Society Committee may refuse membership, or remove it, only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Society or sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to the members.

4) OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

4. The Officers of the Society shall be the President and Vice-Presidents; the Chairman and Vice-Chairman; the Secretary; the Treasurer; the Competition Secretary and Assistant Competition Secretary; the Senior Compound Steward (Boat Stewards to a maximum of four may be appointed to assist him); the Senior Clerk of Scales (Assistant Clerk of Scales to a maximum of four may be appointed to assist him); the Press Officer; the Membership Secretary; Honorary Auditors (to a maximum of two). The Committee of the Society consisting of nine members, excluding those appointed as Officers of the Society, and one Junior Member. All the above Officers and the Committee shall be elected, by ballot if necessary, annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

5) TRUSTEES

5. There shall be not less than two Trustees of the Society. The first Trustees shall be appointed by the Committee and the property of the Society (other than cash which shall be under the control of the Treasurer) shall be vested in them to be dealt with by them as the Committee shall from time to time direct by resolution. (of which an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence)

5A. The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Society's property.

5B. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removed from office by a Resolution of the Committee which may for any reason which may seem sufficient to a majority of the members of the Committee present and voting at any meeting remove any Trustee or Trustees from the Office of Trustees.

5C. Where by reason of any such death, resignation or removal it shall appear necessary to the Committee that a new Trustee or Trustees shall be appointed or, if the Committee shall deem it expedient, to appoint an additional Trustee or Trustees the Committee shall by Resolution nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new Trustee or Trustees.

5D. For the purpose of giving effect to such nomination the Chairman is nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees of the Society within the meaning of the Trustees Act 1925 section 36 and he shall by Deed appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Committee as the new Trustee or Trustees of the Society and the provisions of the Trustees Act 1925 shall apply to any such appointment.

6) SUBSCRIPTIONS

6. Subscriptions and boat storage fees shall be paid annually at such rates as are determined at the Society's Annual General Meeting. They shall become immediately payable from the date of the Annual General Meeting and cover the period up to the next Annual General Meeting. If a member's subscription has not been paid within three months of the date of the Annual General Meeting he shall no longer be considered a Member of the Society. A member with a boat stored in the Society's Compound who fails to pay the appropriate boat storage fee within the above period will be served with a formal notice in writing to remove the boat from the compound in accordance with the terms of the written notice. Failure to comply with such a written notice will empower the Society to remove the boat from the compound and arrange for its disposal at the Committee's discretion. A notice served to that member's last known address shall be deemed sufficient. No member shall be eligible to participate in any match or other event organised by the Society on a competitive basis until the appropriate membership subscription has been paid.

7) COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7. Meetings of the Committee and Officers of the Society - hereafter referred to as Committee Meetings - shall be held on the first Wednesday of each month throughout the year commencing at 7.45pm. except for the month of September when the Committee Meeting will be on the first Wednesday following the Annual General Meeting. Should the first Wednesday fall on a Bank Holiday then the Meeting will automatically be postponed until the second Wednesday of that month. Any Meeting of the Committee of the Society shall have not less than a total of five members of the Committee and Officers present to constitute a Quorum. All members of the Society are entitled to attend any Committee Meetings in a non-voting capacity with the exception of the meeting held in September, which shall be a closed meeting.

7A. The Chairman or Secretary of the Society shall have the power to call additional meetings of the Committee as required.

7B. The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held each year on the First Monday of September. Members unable to attend an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting (see rule 11) of the Society shall be entitled to vote on any matter of contention on the agenda of that meeting by completing a Proxy Voting Form supplied by the Secretary and returning it to the Secretary in time for the meeting.

7C. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society shall be called by the Secretary in the following circumstances: - 1. On the direction of the Committee of the Society. 2. Upon a requirement in writing signed by twelve fully paid-up members stating the special object thereof which must have reference to the management and constitution of the Society. Such meeting shall be held within 28 days of the receipt of the requirement and of which 7 days notice shall have been sent to every fully paid-up Member of the Society. The notice convening such Meeting shall state the object of the Meeting and shall be the only matter for discussion.

7D. The rules of the Society shall be drafted and amended by the Committee. All such Rules and Amendments shall be exhibited on the Notice Board at the Society's Headquarters for one calendar month before coming into effect.

8) ACCOUNTS

8. Payment of all financial liabilities of the Society shall be made by the Treasurer from the finances of the Society after approval by the Committee. Routine payments of accounts for services such as electricity and water may be made by the Treasurer without prior reference to the Committee.

8A. The Treasurer shall prepare a full annual statement of the accounts of the Society showing its financial situation to the end of the month preceding the Annual General Meeting. The accounts and statement must previously have been submitted to the Honorary Auditors of the Society for scrutiny and certification.

9) CONDUCT

9. No member shall sell or offer for sale any fish on the beach or in the vicinity of the Society's compound.

9A. No member shall gut fish on the beach between 1st June and 30th September annually or when members of the public are on the beach or in the sea in the vicinity of the compound.

9B. Under no circumstances will any person be allowed to sleep or remain on the Society's Headquarters premises overnight.

9C. Under no circumstances may bait be stored on the Society's Headquarters premises.

9D. Vehicle accommodation within the compound shall be limited to the loading or unloading of equipment or to assist in the launching or landing of a boat.

9E. The facilities of the Society's Headquarters Premises and Compound are restricted to fully paid-up members and their guests and any other such bodies as shall be approved by the Committee. No unauthorised person shall be allowed to enter the compound.

9F. Any keys issued to members shall remain the property of the Society and are not transferable under any circumstances. Loss of a key must be reported to the Secretary without delay. On termination of membership the keys must be returned to the Secretary when the deposit paid will be refunded. Members using the compound or Headquarters Premises at times other than at the Society's matches or other functions must ensure that the premises and the compound gates are securely locked.

9G. Members are not allowed in the Scale Room unless an official is present.

9H. Access to the kitchen is permitted except on match days or Society functions when a large number of persons are present. At such times access is restricted to the organisers of the event.

9I. The Society will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to members' boats, equipment or property within the Society's compound or Headquarters premises or on the beach.

9J. No member of the Society shall use or interfere with the property of another member at the Society's Headquarters premises or compound without authority.

9K. No personal equipment of any description may be stored within the Society's Headquarters premises.

9L. Any member contravening any of the rules of the Society or otherwise brings the Society into disrepute shall be referred to the Committee who shall have the power to take disciplinary action as they see fit.

10) BOATS AND COMPOUND

10. Members will be responsible for maintaining a standard of general cleanliness at the Headquarters compound and premises and must ensure that their boat site is kept clean and tidy.

10A. No boats will be accommodated having an overall length greater than 5 metres. Boats with a cuddy may be accepted at the discretion of the Committee.

10B. Multi cell semi inflatable boats over 5 metres in length are not permitted into the compound and club matches.

10C. There must be no more than two registered owners to one boat and both must be members of the Society.

10D. A boat site number will be allocated to each boat owner and that number must be displayed on the boat and its trailer.

10E. A register will be kept by the Senior Compound Steward of all boats within the compound and the names and addresses of their owners. It is the responsibility of the owner of a boat to inform the Senior Compound Steward of any change of address or ownership.

10F. All boat owners must comply with the requirements regarding their boat and equipment as listed in these rules. Before being allowed to keep a boat in the compound, or use it in any of the Society's matches, the owner must present it for inspection by a Compound Steward.

10G. Each boat stored in the Society's compound or used in any of the Society's matches or events must have: -

1. Engine and oars.	2. Compass.	3. Life jackets for each user.	4. Distress flares.
5. Anchor and at least 15 fathoms of rope or chain.	6. Bailer.	7. Rowlocks	8. Whistle
9. Spare plug	10. Tool kit.	11. Tow line.	12. Spare shear pin and spring if appropriate.
13. Aerosol foghorn			

10H. A boat site cannot be sold with a boat. Boat sites will always be allocated by the Senior Compound Steward or by the Committee as appropriate.

10I. The Society's rollers and launching equipment must not be left on the beach or promenade but must be returned to the compound before going afloat or after landing.

10J. Motors or anything inflammable must not be left in the Society's Headquarters premises or compound or in any boat within the compound without the authority of the Senior Compound steward. Motors with integral fuel tanks must not be left within the compound.

10K. The Floodgate will be closed between 1 st October and 30 th April. During that period it must only be opened to permit launching or landing a boat. At all other times it must remain closed including the period when the user is at sea. The key is kept within the Society's Headquarters premises and must be returned there after use. In no circumstances must a member retain the key while at sea, or leave it in the lock, or otherwise remove it from the Society's premises.

10L. When closed, this gate forms a vital part of the sea defences of Felixstowe and the rules regarding its use must be strictly adhered to. Failure to do so could result in serious consequences for the Society and will result in severe disciplinary action against the offender.

10M. For the period 1 st May to the 30 th September the gate will remain open unless closed by an officer of the Environment Agency. In such circumstances the gate may not be reopened without authority and the key will be removed from the Headquarters premises.

11) COMPETITION GENERAL RULES.

11. The committee is authorised to arrange matches, prizes, and points system for all competitions. The committee decision on any matter arising from any competition is final.

11A. All the Society's competitions will be fished to the latest SAMF size limits [North Sea], except where amended by a majority decision of the members present at an AGM. The scale steward's decision on the size of fish at weigh-in is final.

11B. All baits and lures are acceptable.

11C. Competitors will be held responsible for leaving the beach free from any rubbish, line, old bait, etc. Any person found leaving rubbish will be disqualified from the match and reported to the committee. Note, this rule will also apply to the club hut and compound.

11D. Any protest must be made to the Match Secretary before the completion of the weigh-in.

11E. All the Society's cups and trophies will only be awarded for fish caught in Society matches. All trophies shall be returned to the Competition Secretary by the date of the last Felixstowe match in July, or as stated by the Competition Secretary.

11F. Junior Anglers, i.e. those under 16 years of age, will remain the responsibility of their parents/guardians at all times. The Society, its Committee and Members can accept no responsibility for the actions or behaviour of Junior Members either during Society competitions or at other times. An emergency contact number must be provided to the match organiser before participation in any competition.

11G. Due to new legislation on the number of bass that can be retained, the club feels they have to follow suit and on any weigh in matches, i.e. rovers or zone matches or Boat matches, only 3 sizeable bass can be retained for the weigh in, if an Angler catches more than 3 he is to contact the match secretary for further guidance. The size limit for bass is up for review from 36cm to 42 cm, if the sizes go's up then the club size will also have to change.

12) BEACH MATCHES

12. The boundaries of competition roving matches will include any beach or pier accessible to the public within the time allowed, unless stated otherwise in the fixture list.

12A. The following areas are out of bounds on all roving matches: - Any part of Felixstowe Dock complex and any part of Landguard Nature Reserve fenced off for nesting birds or plant life, any competitor found entering any officially fenced off area or damaging fencing or signs will be disqualified from the match and brought before the committee for bringing the club into disrepute.

12B. The boundaries for beach matches are:

zone 1 Pier to Regal

zone 2 Regal to southern end of promenade (Manor railings)

zone 3 Manor House to southern end of the Butts sea wall

zone 4 Open beach (Landguard)

zone 5 The Dip (Deben ferry jetty (sea-side) to Jacobs Ladder)

12C. The boundaries of Tuesday night matches will be from the Deben ferry jetty (sea-side) up to and including the Viewing Area. Borley Cup matches may be zoned, as directed by the Competition Secretary.

12D. Nacton matches will be pegged.

12E. In fixed zone matches, competitors may leave the club hut, or other booking-in point, half an hour before the commencement time stated. Competitors must return to the weighing-in point no later than half an hour after the stated finish time.

12F. In roving matches and Tuesday evening matches, competitors must not leave the club hut before the time stated and must return no later than the stated time. Before the match all vehicles must wait in the marked spaces in the car park. On "Borley Cup" matches, competitors must not leave the car park before the time stated and must cease fishing no later than the stated finish time. Competitors must return to the weighing-in point no later than half an hour after the stated finish time. No vehicle shall leave the parking space until the Competition Secretary gives the signal. All vehicles must leave the car park in an orderly manner. Reckless driving/speeding may lead to all competitors in that vehicle being disqualified from the match.

12G. Members must book in at least 15 minutes before the time of leaving the club hut. Anyone arriving late must contact a committee member before they commence fishing.

12H Each competitor will be allowed to use two rods and line or handlines on selected matches, on the remaining matches only one rod or handline may be used at a time. No more than three hooks will be used on any one rig or in total on the two rods, unless otherwise stated. Treble hooks count as three. Spare rigs may be pre-baited. Spare rods are allowed in daylight matches but may not have a trace attached. Line and end rig must have a minimum breaking strain of 10 lb. per ounce of weight being used, up to a maximum of 1.5 ounces. Above 1.5 ounces, a shock leader and end rig with a minimum breaking strain of 10 lbs. per ounce shall be used subject to a minimum breaking strain of 50 lbs. In the interests of safety competitors are advised that any form of dangerous casting is prohibited.

12J. Assistance may be given to land a fish but no one other than the competitor may handle the rod. In pier competitions assistance to land fish with a drop net is permitted, as is hand-lining the fish up the pier or promenade wall, providing that it can be lifted clear of the surface and not pulled through the water towards the competitor.

12K. All fish must be brought to the scales within the time allowed (rules 9E & 9F), in a suitable container. Any attempt to alter the size of a fish, including wrapping in paper, will lead to that fish being rejected and may lead to that competitor being disqualified from the match.

12L. An attempt should be made to keep all fish alive for return to the sea after weighing. (except those wanted for personal consumption). Each member will be responsible for returning his/her own fish to the water.

12M. In pegged matches, competitors must fish and cast only from the peg allocated or drawn. Any competitor fishing from anywhere but their own peg will be disqualified from the match.

12N In the event that a competitor's peg is already occupied, or there appears to be a valid reason why that peg is unfishable, the competitor should report immediately to the nearest committee member whose decision, in consultation with the Competition Secretary, will be final.

12O. When fishing a double peg, each competitor must fish from his/her own peg position.

12P. The sharing of rod rests is not permitted in any club competition. Guest anglers not competing in the match should either fish outside the limits of the competition or at a reasonable distance from any other angler.

12Q. Beach points will be awarded on all beach matches except as stated in the Fixture List.

12R. Where a match is designated "Measure for Weight" by the Competition Secretary, the match will be fished in accordance with the rules, and for the conversions, as shown on the cards issued by the Competition Secretary

from time to time. The Competition Secretary may, in consultation with the Committee, amend the rules and/or the conversion table as deemed necessary.

13) BOAT MATCHES

13. The boundaries for boat competitions shall be within an imaginary line joining the end of Hall's jetty (in the River Orwell) to the Fort Buoy and then through all the green buoys seawards, out to the Washington buoy, from there inland to the Cutler buoy and onto the central Martello Tower. It is permitted to fish in the River Deben up as far as a line linking the two jetties used by the Felixstowe / Bawdsey ferry. (See the chart in the clubhouse). When sea conditions are doubtful, the competition can be transferred by the Competition Secretary, in consultation with any other committee members present, to the Rivers Orwell, Stour or Deben.

13A. Boats may be launched before the match times, but must assemble in the area stipulated by the Competition Secretary and not leave this area until half an hour before the commencement of the match. One Competitor from each boat must report, or cause a report to be sent, to the Competition Secretary that the boat has returned safely or that the occupants are safe and intend to continue fishing, not later than half an hour after the stated finish time of the match.

13B. Each competitor will be allowed to use two rods and line or handlines unless otherwise stated. No more than three hooks will be used on any one rig. Treble hooks count as three. Spare rigs may be pre-baited. Spare rods are allowed in daylight matches but only two rods may have a trace attached at any one time.

13C. No other person may touch an angler's rod, reel or line or give any assistance except that another person(s) may gaff or net fish when it is brought into range.

13D. The decision to hold a boat match when sea conditions are doubtful will be made by the Competition Secretary in consultation with any other committee members present, before the match is due to start. When a boat match is cancelled then this can be fished from the beach and beach rules will apply.

13E. Any member not wishing to or is unable to compete in a boat match from a boat is at liberty to take part in the match by fishing from the beach.

13F. All fish must be brought to the scales within 1 hour of the time stated for the end of the match, in a suitable container. Any attempt to alter the size of a fish, including wrapping in paper, will lead to that fish being rejected and may lead to that competitor being disqualified from the match. In the interests of safety, no fish bags are to be handed over at sea.